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preparation of tobacco for use. This is the most widely cultivated plant of the German colonies, being grown everywhere. Only the species *N. Tabacum* is extensively grown, *N. rustica*, which is so common in some other tropical countries, being scarcely known. The fungus parasites which induce diseases of this plant are numerous, and the way in which they affect the plant is equally varied. At the close of this chapter is appended a bibliography of the most important literature upon the subject. Many readers will regret that a similar appendix is not to be found with the other subjects.

The other twelve chapters of the book are not arranged with reference to any particular genus or group of plants, but with reference to certain economic products, as "Grains and sugars," "Edible fruits and vegetables," and "Eigentliche Genussmittel"—the coffee and tea group. The colonies produce many of the spices, and the number of plants yielding fats and oils is no less. Indigo, gums, caoutchouc, and gutta-percha are prominent among the products of the colonies. Twenty plants yield textile materials or useful woods. The number of medicinal plants grown is very small, and comparatively little space is given to the chapter which deals with these.

It is obviously the author's intention to deal merely with that part of economic botany which has to do with the useful plants; and those unfamiliar with this subject will be surprised to find that there are so many of these. Dr. Sadebeck expresses the belief that should the people of the German colonies, through the medium of such a book as he has written, become informed of the possibilities, the product from these plants, at present not large, would be very greatly increased. A comparison of the unused regions with those in which these plants are now grown shows that the cultivation has scarcely begun. The book is full of information and is worthy of the attention of every one interested in the inter-relationships of men and plants.—OTIS W CALDWELL.

The making of a daisy.⁴

TO POPULARIZE science is a worthy purpose, and it should be undertaken more by those who represent it. As the reviewer understands it, to popularize is to present the important facts in simple language, free from technicalities and with clear illustrations, in an attractive style, but never at the expense of accuracy. Judged by such a definition the book before us cannot be called a success, but it is a good type of its class. The author is well informed, but her contact with plants seems to be sentimental rather than scientific. To cultivate a sentimental affection for nature is delightful, but it should never be labeled science.

Certain facts about plants are taken, and most fanciful, not to say dreamy,

⁴ HUGHES-GIBB, ELEANOR: *The making of a daisy*; "wheat out of lilies;" and other studies in plant-life and evolution. A popular introduction to botany. 8vo. pp. 126. Charles Griffin & Co.: London, 1898.

hypotheses are developed. For example, "the making of a daisy" is presented as "a study in evolution," and the processes involved, from "the beautiful, flowerless fern-trees and gigantic mosses," where "the arrangements for reproduction are so complicated that it is almost impossible for any person to understand them" (as presumably they do in seed plants), to the daisy, are something that would amaze the morphologist. "Looking carefully amongst the fronds of some palm-like fern," the author fancies that she "might have discovered two small objects," "the one had a yellow, powdery head, whilst the surface of the other was more or less sticky." These "small objects" discovered in imagination on an ancient tree fern are "a single stamen and a single naked ovule," the "first parents of the flowers." It is this sort of wild imagination that seems to the reviewer to do more harm than good.

There is a constant outcry throughout the book against the "hard words" of the science, but in the chapter on the "relationship of the flowers," the pages fairly bristle with the old morphology in reference to "cohesion," "adhesion," "suppression," etc., and such group names as "Dichlamydeæ," "Thalamifloræ," "Calycifloræ," etc.

It should be understood that the reviewer makes no objection to the book as a piece of sentimental literature, but as "a popular introduction to botany" he must protest against it.—J. M. C.

California plants.⁵

MRS. DAVIDSON has certainly done good service for nature study in southern California, and has given a model for similar books in other regions. She does not seek to arouse a factitious interest in plants by "fairy tales," but in a very attractive style tells of the most evident things that can be observed. The book cannot be used without a study of the living plants, in cultivation or in the field, which is much in its favor. It is a storehouse of suggested observations when in contact with the material. And the material selected is what the author has found to be most available in her long experience in southern California. "The aim is to awaken interest in common plants, and to invest them with new meaning. Pond-scums, mould, and toadstools are included among these familiar plants, and sea-mosses, lichens, and ferns are believed to be as attractive as flowering plants."

A voluminous supplement takes up each chapter and gives full suggestions to teachers. Evidently the author's experience has shown to her how much they need it. It is a pleasure to commend a book prepared for nature study, a book which does not leave its few facts to spin out endless fancies, but which goes directly and soberly out among the plants of the neighborhood and calls attention to what can be observed.—J. M. C.

⁵DAVIDSON, ALICE MERRITT: California plants in their homes. A botanical reader for children. 8vo. pp. 133. B. R. Baumgardt & Co.: Los Angeles, Cal., 1898.